

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4, 6, and 7 were rejected in the Office Action mailed on September 28, 2005, (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"), under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vignotto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,927,820. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In support of the rejection of claim 7, the Examiner contends, in part, that, "at least one projection 38 [is] integrated with at least the fixed part 13 of the wheel bearing 3," (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 3, lines 6-7). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Reference numeral 38 in Vignotto et al., which is alleged by the Examiner to denote a projection, as claimed in claim 7, actually refers to pins which connect flange 13 to upright 4 of the suspension, (column 2, lines 51-55). The Examiner contends in the Advisory Action mailed on March 21, 2006, "element 38 (a pin) is certainly readable as a projection and as alluded to in column 2 lines 50-55 is a 'stress transferring element'", (Advisory Action, Continuation Sheet, lines 8-9).

Claim 7 has been amended to provide for, "at least one projection, integrated with at least one of the fixed part of the wheel bearing, the wheel carrier and the connecting elements, transmitting to the wheel carrier a torque acting in the fixed part of the wheel bearing during braking, at least one of said projections having a hole therethrough;..." Antecedent support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Figs. 2, 3, and 4 of the application drawings.

In contrast, pin 38 in Vignotto et al., alleged to be equivalent to the projection of claim 7, has no hole therethrough, (Fig. 2).

The above-quoted amendment to claim 7 was sent to the Examiner by facsimile on April 21, 2006 as one of two alternative amendments to claim 7. The Examiner conducted a telephonic interview with attorney for the Applicants on April 24, 2006, and stated that the above-quoted amendment to claim 7 appeared to overcome Vignotto et al., and that, in that event, a new search would be necessary. The Examiner also stated that the above-quoted amendment was more likely to overcome Vignotto et al. than the other alternative amendment presented.

Since claims 2-4 and 6 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 7, they are allowable over Vignotto et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 7 over Vignotto et al.

Claim 5 was objected to in the Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it should now be allowable.


In view of the foregoing remarks, the allowance of claims 2-7 is respectfully requested.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail to Addressee (mail label #EV605032797US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 28, 2006:

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



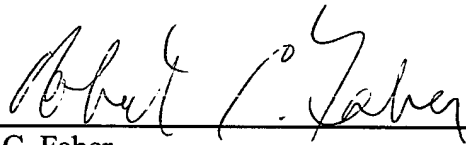
Signature

April 28, 2006

Date of Signature

RCF/MIM:sr

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700